

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, further examination and reconsideration of the rejection in the Office Action of April 30, 2009 are respectfully requested.

On pages 2 to 5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 7,237,029 to Hino et al., in view of US Patent No. 7,228,061 to Mori et al., and in view of US Patent No. 7,417,680 to Aoki et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

First, on page 4 of the Action, Mori is cited as disclosing displaying a time period when no image from the time period exists in the recording medium (*Mori* Fig. 20; col. 19, lines 39-46). However, this is the *opposite* of the recitation in claim 1. Claim 1 recites that the first control means and the second control means are operable to *prevent* the first display means and the second display means, respectively, from displaying a time period when no image from the time period exists in the recording medium. Thus, Mori does not disclose the first control means and the second control means as recited in claim 1.

Neither Hino nor Aoki obviate the deficiencies of Mori discussed above, nor were they relied on for such in the Action.

Second, Hino and Mori fail to disclose a first display means and second display means operable to display images of the one or more images as a two-dimensional array of thumbnail images, as stated by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action. Aoki was cited in the Action as disclosing this; however, Aoki does not disclose a display means as recited in claim 1.

Aoki discloses a digital video reproduction apparatus and method effective for selecting a plurality of successive thumbnails (*Aoki* abstract). Aoki also discloses displaying images of thumbnails in a two-dimensional array (*Aoki* Figs. 2A and 3A). However, Aoki does not disclose that a first axis of the two-dimensional array represents a time period, as required by

claim 1.

Further, Aoki also does not disclose that the first control means and the second control means are operable to prevent the first display means and the second display means, respectively, from displaying a time period when no image from the time period exists in the recording medium, nor was Aoki cited as disclosing such in the Action.

Thus, Aoki does not disclose display means or control means as recited in claim 1.

And so, there is no disclosure in Hino, Mori, or Aoki that the first display means and the second display means are operable to display images of the one or more images as a two-dimensional array of thumbnail images, in which a first axis of the two-dimensional array represents a time period, *and* wherein the first control means and the second control means are operable to prevent the first display means and the second display means, respectively, from displaying a time period when no image from the time period exists in the recording medium.

Thus, the present invention as recited in claim 1 is not disclosed or rendered obvious by the disclosures of Hino, Mori, or Aoki, or any reasonable combination thereof. Claim 4 recites similar limitations to claim 1 and is believed not disclosed or rendered obvious by the disclosures of Hino, Mori, or Aoki, or any reasonable combination thereof, for similar reasons to the above. It is submitted that claims 1 and 4 are allowable over the prior art of record, as are claims 3 and 6-8 depending therefrom.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this amendment, the Examiner feels that there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975.

Respectfully submitted,

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